

Appl. No. : 10/023,037
Filed : December 6, 2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 12, line 13, and ending at page 13, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraphs:

--If the call type indicated in the call detail record is non-standard (step 51), the rating application 24 proceeds to calculate a charge for the entire call, by retrieving non-standard tariff charging details held in the tariff store 26, step 54. When the charge has been calculated, data indicating the charge is added to the call detail record, 56, to allow the call to be billed at a later stage.

If in steps 50 and 51 the call is identified as a standard call type, it is determined that the call duration may be subtracted from any available bundle time, rather than being charged for directly. In order to identify the bundle record holding the appropriate usage allocation data, the rating application 24 determines the directory number (MSISDN) from which the call was conducted, whereby the bundle record is identified by association in the relational database 20/22, step 52.

If the bundle record indicates that all of the bundle time originally available at the start of the billing period has been used already (step 53), the rating application 24 proceeds to retrieve data indicating the subscription type of the subscriber from the relational database 20/22 and standard tariff charges for that subscription type from the tariff store 26, and thereby to calculate the charge for the entire call, step 54. The calculated charge is added to the call detail record, step 56.

If however there is bundle time remaining, it is checked whether the bundle time remaining is greater than or equal to the duration of the call (step 55). If so, the duration of the call is subtracted from the remaining bundle time in the bundle record, step 58, and data indicating the bundle time used is added to the call detail record, step 60, for use in subsequent billing of the call. No charge is attached to the call detail record.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The billing application 28 then proceeds to perform step 74, 76 and 78 for each subscriber in the selected group (step 79), until charging and bundle time data has been totalled for each subscriber in the selected group. Then, the charges stored for each subscriber in the group are totalled and data indicating the total charge for the group is stored, step 80, and the

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bundle time used by each subscriber is totalled and data indicating the total bundle time used by subscribers in the group is stored, step 82. By way of step 83, ~~t~~The procedure returns to step 72 if the account consists of a number of groups, until there are no more groups remaining in the account.--

Please add the following paragraph at page 15, line 23:

--Following compilation of the billing details in step 83, the billing application 28 proceeds to step 88 to determine whether there is another account in the database. If there is another account in the database, then the billing application 28 returns to step 70. If there is no additional account in the database, the billing application proceeds to an end step.--